



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS  
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FOUNDER  
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montaña

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Ms. Barbara Bigby  
Ms. Rita Hall  
Mr. John A. Hammargren  
Mrs. Anne S. Hill  
Mr. Carl E. Moore

### **MINUTES OF THE** **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING OF MAY 19, 2010**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

#### **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

##### **Present**

Chairperson Eleanor R. Montaña  
Vice Chairperson Frank Bacio  
Barbara Bigby  
Rita Hall  
John Hammargren  
Carl Moore

##### **Excused Absence**

Ann S. Hill

##### **Guest**

Michael Henderson, Internal Services Department  
Cesar Menchala, Internal Services Department  
Commander Margaret Ruiz, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation Department  
Mike Valera, Probation Department  
Barbara Butler, DCFS  
Dorothy Channel, DCFS  
Paul McIver, Department of Mental Health

##### **Staff**

Lee Millen  
Jimmy Prieto  
Nyla Jefferson  
Roy Sinclair

## **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

### **Department of Children and Family Services**

Period of 3-7-10 to 4-20-10: Barbara Butler, DCFS, reported there were 7 referrals of general neglect, 2 evaluated out, 1 inconclusive, 2 unfounded and 2 pending. There were 12 physical abuse referrals, 3 evaluated out, 4 unfounded and 5 pending. There were 10 sexual abuse referrals, 4 evaluated out, 3 inconclusive, 1 substantiated and 2 unfounded. There were 321 runaways.

Period of 4-21-10 to 5-19-10: There were 12 referrals of general neglect, 4 evaluated out, 8 pending. There were 21 physical abuse referrals, 13 evaluated out, 1 unfounded and 7 pending. There were 7 sexual abuse referrals, 3 evaluated out and 4 pending. There were 251 runaways.

Any substantiated allegations are referred to local law enforcement agencies.

Dorothy Channel, DCFS, advised that Boys Town of Southern California located in Compton has been closed due to financial viability issues.

### **Internal Services Department**

Michael Henderson, Division Manager, ISD Maintenance & Operation, reported that the Department continues to receive 3,000 to 4,000 monthly calls for service with a 90% performance measure completion rate. ISD is currently assisting the residential treatment center, Dorothy Kirby Center, in identifying and correcting areas regarding potential suicide hazards. Also, a new motor and photocell was installed on the Kenyon Juvenile Justice Center gate.

### **Mental Health Department**

Paul McIver, Mental Health Department, apologized for not being able to attend the past meetings due to surgery. Mr. McIver reported that because of declining resources from the Realignment Fund, the department has had to absorb an additional \$43 million in budget cuts. New short-term management group homes treatment programs have been implemented to prevent massive cuts and layoffs; unsure how effective it may be for the more chronic cases.

California Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed 2010-11 budget cuts, if approved, would pay for hospital, medication and emergency services only which is required and reimbursed by the Federal Government. Also, funding for out-of-home care has been stagnant for years, however, recently the Children's Alliance successfully sued the state, and the new out-of-home care rate has been increased by as much as a couple thousand dollars a child effective December 14, 2009.

## **Probation Department**

Michael Varela, Probation Department, reported that the Department of Justice had visited local camps to evaluate staff's daily conduct/routine to identify baselines among camps on how children are handled and if they receive timely access to medical care. Mr. Varela has oversight responsibility to evaluate employee methods of disciplining children to determine if the actions are necessary and if discipline meted out by any individual significantly differs from the norm. Also, he will provide the Commission with information on the ACLU lawsuit against the Probation Department for allegedly not adequately educating the youth at probation camps.

Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation Department, Director of Placement Quality Assurance, thanked the Commission for their donation to Jaime Zamorano who recently adopted a probation youth and the youth's siblings. She thanked Commissioners Bigby and Hill for attending the ceremony.

Ms. Campbell-Motton noted that there were 100 AWOLS in February, 109 in March, and 99 in April; about 50% return each month. In April, 59 are still AWOL, 7 returned to their Group Home, 1 is in jail, 1 terminated from Probation Camp, and 22 are in juvenile hall. There were 27 child abuse referrals, 2 fatalities, 5 are under a special investigation and 20 reported past sexual/physical abuses. Also, there were 2 general neglect referrals and 1 was unfounded.

The Ettie Lee Group Homes are on administrative hold pending review. The Child's Home for Children lost their rate and it is unknown whether they will continue to use their facility. Saint Anne's is also being investigated due to an outbreak of scurves, and a Field Comprehensive audit revealed a \$50,000 outstanding debt. Children are Our Future has improved their performance in that kids are happier; work improvements are ongoing. Also, work is progressing on 10 adoptions, 10 guardianships and 52 permanencies. Commissioner Bigby noted that the Needs and Services Plans are not in any of the COF sites.

## **Sheriff's Department**

Commander Margaret Ruiz, LASD, distributed the Sheriff's Education Based Incarceration publication and the Inmate Assaults on Staff statistics. The publication provides information on all the inmate programs administered that offer life skill vocational/academic classes, and assist in providing GEDs and parenting skills. The Commission will be invited to attend the Merit Graduation at Rancho in the near future.

Commander Ruiz reported that every six (6) months the Department of Justice (DOJ) reviews the Mental Health program and its quality of care in the jail system; the DOJ regards the program as outstanding. All complaints are reviewed by the Office of Independent Review. Also, on June 10, 2010, the Sheriff's Department will address the Board of Supervisors regarding the ACLU's allegations of abuse and neglect; many of these allegations are unfounded.

### **Community Care Licensing**

No representative in attendance.

### **Auditor Controller's Department**

No representative in attendance.

Chairperson Montaña thanked everyone for their very informative presentations.

### **APPROVAL OF MAY 12, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Vice Chairperson Bacio and unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of May 12, 2010 were approved with the following edit:

First page, Attendance, should read Excused Absence.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

There was none.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1, 649.93. The \$200 check to the Zamorano Family is not deposited as yet.

Commissioners Bigby and Hill attended the Zamorano adoption ceremony. Commissioner Bigby reported that the judicial Commissioner presiding over the adoption did not initially support the adoption of probation children, however, he changed his mind following the formal adoption process.

Commissioner Hall requested that staff forward her a scanned newspaper article of the family for further consideration during the Christmas holiday.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS ON GROUP HOMES AND/OR DETENTION FACILITIES INSPECTIONS FROM MAY 13, 2010 TO MAY 18, 2010**

**Careprovider Organization Foundation – 5, #2 - Vice Chairperson Bacio** The facility was visited on April 29, 2010 and was found to be in satisfactory condition. **Areas of Concern:** The Needs and Services Plan and Life books were at the Corporate office.

**Children Are Our Future (Kezios House) – 6, #4 – Commissioners Bigby and Hil** The facility was visited on May 14, 2010 and was found to be in satisfactory condition. **Areas of Concern:** Considerable repairs have been made, however, bathrooms #1 & #2 need new shower doors, bathroom #2 needs caulking around tub and shower door, and bathroom #3 needs caulking around sink and threshold strip. Both couches need legs and

the blinds need replacing in the living room and bedroom #2 and #3. A re-inspection will occur in 30 days.

**Saint Anne's Maternity Home – 42, #3 – Chairperson Montaña** The facility was visited on May 17, 2010 and was found to be in satisfactory condition.

**San Gabriel Children's Center (Transitional Living 1) – 40, #3 - Vice Chairperson Bacio and Commissioner Hammargren** The facility was visited on May 18, 2010 and was found to be in satisfactory condition. **Areas of Concern:** The kitchen sink is severely leaking, the kitchen cabinets need refinishing, and the air conditioner filter needs replacing. A follow-up visit is planned in 60 days.

**Starview Group Home – 42, #4 – Chairperson Montaña** The facility was visited on May 18, 2010 and was found to be in satisfactory condition.

#### **NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Lee Millen, Staff, announced that DCFS has invited the Commission to attend the Foster Youth Graduation. Also, Commissioner Hall noted that she will attend the Celebration Honoring the Academic Achievements of Foster Youth on June 8, 2010 at Walt Disney Concert Hall at 6:30 p.m.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.